



UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Homeless Veterans

Representing the Needs and Interests of Homeless Veterans in State, County, and City 10-Year Plans to End Chronic Homelessness

The mission of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is to create the federal strategy and coordinate the response to homelessness and forward the Administration's commitment to end chronic homelessness in 10 years through interagency, intergovernmental, intragovernmental, and intercommunity partnerships and collaborations. Key to the development and implementation of this national approach are state, county, and city jurisdictional 10-year plans to end chronic homelessness.

The USICH recognizes that the needs of homeless veterans must be given special attention and consideration in the development and implementation of jurisdictional plans. Best practice in the convening of planning partnerships and the development of jurisdictional plans will ensure early inclusion of partners who address the needs of homeless veterans, the development of jurisdictional data on their needs, and the design of partnerships and investments that prevent and end their homelessness.

The USICH believes that no state, county, or city jurisdictional 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness can be considered complete without directly addressing the issues of homeless veterans and, to that end, without the inclusion in jurisdictional planning partnerships of individuals and organizations that can effectively represent the needs of homeless veterans and are knowledgeable about the resources and proven strategies to serve them.

No implementation of a 10-year plan can be truly effective without accessing the resources available from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and those resources available from state and local departments and offices representing the interests of veterans. This includes, but is not limited to, VA's VISN Network Homeless Coordinators and Veterans Benefits Administration Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinators (HVOC's). Rosters of these key contacts are attached to this document.

Accessing resources targeted to homeless veterans not only helps end the homelessness of veterans. It also means that homeless veterans will utilize fewer dollars not specifically targeted to them, thus maximizing the use of available resources for other subpopulations of persons experiencing homelessness.

It is critical that states, counties, and cities access the following resources to inform the development and implementation of the components of their 10-Year Plans that address the needs of homeless veterans. The following information is from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website as well as other sources.

A. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Programs for Homeless Veterans

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), one-third of adult homeless men and nearly one-quarter of all homeless adults have served in the armed forces. While less than 200,000 veterans may be homeless on any given night as many as twice that number may experience homelessness during a year. Many other veterans are considered at risk because of poverty, lack of support from family and friends, and precarious living conditions in overcrowded or substandard housing.

Ninety-seven percent of homeless veterans are male, and the majority are single. Nearly half of all veterans treated in health care programs suffer from mental illness, and slightly more than 2 out of 3 have alcohol or drug abuse problems. Thirty-five percent have both psychiatric and substance abuse disorders.

Program Overview

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the only federal agency that provides substantial hands-on assistance directly to homeless people. Last year, VA provided health care services to about 100,000 homeless veterans, while more than 74,000 benefited from its specialized homeless programs. More than 44,000 homeless veterans are receiving compensation or pension benefits.

Although limited to veterans and their dependents, VA's major homeless programs constitute the largest integrated network of homeless assistance programs in the country, offering a wide array of services and initiatives to help veterans recover from homelessness and live as self-sufficiently and independently as possible.

VA uses its own resources and establishes partnerships with private and governmental groups. It has secured more than 9,000 transitional and permanent beds for homeless veterans throughout the nation. To increase assistance, VA conducts outreach to connect homeless veterans to both mainstream and homeless-specific VA programs and benefits. These programs strive to offer a continuum of services that include:

- ◆ Aggressive outreach to veterans living on the streets and in shelters who otherwise would not seek assistance;
- ◆ Clinical assessment and referral for medical treatment of physical and psychiatric disorders, including substance abuse;
- ◆ Long-term transitional residential assistance, case management and rehabilitation; and,
- ◆ Employment assistance and linkage with available income supports and permanent housing.

VA has awarded more than 400 grants to public and nonprofit groups to assist homeless veterans in 50 states and the District of Columbia to provide transitional housing, service centers and vans to provide transportation to services and employment.

For further information on the substantial number of programs and services offered by the VA to homeless veterans use this link to the following web address: www.va.gov/homeless/

B. Federal Agency Web Sites on Homelessness

The following Federal agency Web sites focused on homelessness may also have information on resources for homeless veterans.

- ◆ U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness: www.usich.gov
- ◆ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: www.va.gov/homeless/
- ◆ U.S. Department of Agriculture: www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Care/Homeless/HomelessFaqs.htm
- ◆ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: aspe.hhs.gov/homeless/index.shtml
- ◆ U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):
www.fema.gov/rrr/efs.shtm
- ◆ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:
www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/index.cfm
- ◆ U.S. Department of Justice: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/welcome.html
- ◆ U.S. Department of Labor: www.dol.gov/dol/audience/aud-homeless.htm
- ◆ Social Security Administration: www.socialsecurity.gov/homelessness/
- ◆ White House Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives:
www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/grants-catalog-homelessness.html

C. Veterans Service Organizations

To access a list of and links to Veterans Service Organizations, go to: www1.va.gov/vso/

D. State and Local Veterans Service Organizations

To access a list of and links to State and Local Veterans Service Organizations, go to: www1.va.gov/vso/

E. National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

To access information on the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans go to: www.nchv.org

F. VBA Regional Office Homeless Outreach Veterans Coordinators

Station	Coordinator Name	Position	Telephone #
Albuquerque	Rita Aranda	VSR	505-346-4754
Anchorage	Mike Walljasper (P) Pete Bush (Alt)	VSR-Homeless Veteran Coordinator	907-257-4729 (P) (Alt)-907-257-4792
Atlanta*	Richard Barnes	VSR - Homeless Veterans Coordinator	404-929-5738 FAX: 404-929-5756
Baltimore	Clayton Smith		410-230-4530, Ext. 1044
Boise	Scott Stevens	VSR	208-334-1227
Boston*	Jan Edward Sniegiecki	Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinator	617-303-4980
Buffalo	Thomas Peszko	Public Contact Outreach Specialist	716-481-5708
Chicago*	Phyllis Smith-Taylor	Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinator	708-202-2715 FAX: 312 980-4503
Cleveland*	John Bolen, Kevin Tabor, Collins Briggs	LAS, VSR, LAS	614-469-6772, 216-522-3530 #3316, 216-522-3530 #3223
Columbia	John Gibson	Legal Admin Specialist	803-255-4209 (Cell) or 803-765-0260 x 27 (Ofc at Salvation Army)
Denver	Barbara Martinez (P) & Douglas Willyerd (P)- Cheyenne	Coach and VSR (respectively)	303-914-5763 & 307-433-2702 FAX: 303-914-5797
Des Moines	Victor Tate	LAS	515- 323-7487
Detroit*	Harold Ingram	VSR - Homeless Veterans Outreach Coordinator	313-471-3827 FAX: 313-226-5781
Fargo	Shane Johnson	RVSR	701-451-4621
Ft. Harrison	Christina White	VSR	406-495-2075 FAX: 406-495-2009
Hartford	John Lankford	VSR	860-666-7349
Honolulu	Jamie Detwiler	Asst. Coach PCT	808-433-0512
Houston*	Quinn Allen	Public Contact Outreach Specialist	713-383-2539 FAX: 713-797-1270

Huntington	Robert D. Thompson	PCT	304-399-9221
Indianapolis*	Dianne Brown	Legal Administrative Specialist	317-988-2589
Jackson	Johnny R. Jones	LAS	601-364-7105
Lincoln	Kathy Ogren	Coach	402-420-4097
Little Rock	Carl Whitfield - Primary; Henry Dodson - Alternate	VSR	501-370-3947 (P); 501-370-3844 (A) FAX: 501-370-3891
Los Angeles*	Stanley Walker	VSR	310-235-6343 Cell # - 310-863-3979
Louisville	James Wagner	PCOS	502-566-4366
Manchester	Antone Rose (Alt)	VSR	603-222-5736
Manila	None		
Milwaukee	James Bowerman	PCOS	414-902-5052 FAX: 414-902-9408
Montgomery	Walter Mayer	VSR	334-213-3388
Muskogee	Jerry Davidson	PCT Coach	918-781-7692
Nashville*	Keith R. Prather	LAS	615-695-6121
New Orleans	Carlos Robinson	LAS	504-619-4315
New York*	Samella Smith	Homeless Cordinator	718-439-4323 212-807-3430
Newark*	Paul Charbonneau	VSR	973-704-3865
Oakland*	Gayle Gotowka	LAS	510-637-6444
Philadelphia*	Robert Costantini	LAS	(215) 842-2000 x4627
Phoenix*	Janice Owens	HVOOC	602-627-2990
Pittsburgh	Thomas Visser	Coach	412-395-6212
Portland	Cheryl Beck	PCOS	503 - 412- 4713
Providence	Rosanna Comella /Mark Ramos	VSR /Coach	401-223-3642/401-223-3630
Reno	Rebecca Williams	Pre-Team Coach	775-784-5691
Roanoke*	Edward Heath (P) and Kevin Thompson (Alt)	Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinator	540-857-2193
Salt Lake City	Gil Talkington	Management Analyst	801-326-2403
San Diego	Erol Samuelson	Veterans Service Representative	619-400-5623
San Juan	Julian De Jesus	Contact Representative	787-772-7360
Seattle*	Erika Hoppe	Homeless Veterans Outreach Coordinator	206-220-4186 FAX: 206-608-

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Sioux Falls	Brandon Schultz	VSR	605-336-3230, Ext. 6385
St. Louis*	Richard W. Ivy	Homeless Veterans Outreach Coordinator (HVOC)	314-552-9561 Cell# 314-954-2035 FAX: 314-552-9722
St. Paul	Ken Beresni	VSR	612-970-5265
St. Petersburg*	Regina F. Alexander	LAS/Public Contact	727-319-5931 FAX: 727-319-7761
Togus	Paul Gudde	VSR	207-623-8411 Ext. 5924
Waco*	Sylvia Figueroa	PCOS	254-505-1381
Washington	Diana Hannah	LAS	202-530-9033
White River Junction	Jeff Neily	VSR	802-295-9363 Ext. 5321
Wichita	David Desmond (P) Mary Ann Conroy (Alt)	P=PCOS / Alt=VSR	P= 316-651-2933 / Alt= 316-651-2902
Wilmington	Wendy Glovier	Veterans Service Representative (R)	302-993-7202
Winston-Salem*	Ron Hairston	LAS	336-714-0788 FAX: 336-631-5022

G. VHA VISN Homeless Coordinators

Name	Title/Program	Facility/Station Number	Address	City/State/Zip	Phone	E-mail
VISN 1						
Gerald Carmichael	Network Homeless Coord.	VA Boston Healthcare System	150 S. Huntington Ave.	Boston, MA 02130	617-232-9500 ext.44948	Gerald.Carmichael@med.va.gov
Richard Synott	Homeless Coordinator	VA Medical Center-650	Davis Park	Providence, RI 02907	401-253-8000 ext.528	Richard.Synott@med.va.gov
VISN 2						
Robert VanKeuren	Network Homeless Coord.	VA Medical Center-532	400 Fort Hill Avenue	Canandaigua, NY 14424	716-393-7413	Robert.Vankeuren@med.va.gov
Jean Dittman	Community Day Prgrm Mng.	VA Medical Center-528	3495 Bailey Ave	Buffalo, NY 14215	716-834-4270	Jean.Dittman@med.va.gov
VISN 3						
Henrietta Fishman	Network Mgr., Homeless Programs	VA Medical Center-10N3HOM	130 West Kingsbridge Road	Bronx, NY 10468	718-741-4254	Henrietta.Fishman2@med.va.gov
VISN 4						
Vincent Kane	Homelsss Coord./Program Analy.	VA Medical Center	1601 Kirkwood Hwy	Wilmington, DE 19805 19104	302-994-2511 ext. 4750	Vincent.Kane@med.va.gov
VISN 5						
Dale Smith	Clinical Manager, Resid.Care.Prg.	VA Medical Center	Perry Point, Circle 1H	Perry Point, MD 21902	410-642-2411 ext.6516	Dale.Smith2@med.va.gov
VISN 6						
James L. Robinson III	Assoc. Medical Center Director	VA Medical Center-659	1601 Brenner Ave.	Salisbury, NC 28144	704-638-3344	James.L.Robinson@med.va.gov
Rhonda M. Simmons	VISN 6 Assistant	VA Medical Center-508	1670 Clairmont Road	Decatur, GA 30033	404-321-6111 ext.3798	Rhonda.M.Simmons@med.va.gov
VISN 7						
Patricia Bradford	Acting Network Homeless Coord.	WJB Dorn Veterans Medical Ctr.	6439 Garners Ferry Rd.	Columbia, SC 29209-1639	803-776-4000 ext.7697	Patricia.Bradford@med.gov
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VISN 8						
Daniel Robbin	VISN 8 Homeless Coord.	VA Medical Center-546	1492 West Flagler Street	Miami, FL 33126	305-541-5864 ext.136	Daniel.Robbin@med.va.gov
VISN 9						
David Hansard	Homeless Coordinator	VA Medical Center	P.O. Box 4000	Mountain Home, TN 37684	423-979-2874	David.Hansard@med.va.gov
VISN 10						
Thomas Halfhill	Supported Employment Prg.Mgr.	VA Medical Center	3500 St. Clair Avenue	Cleveland, OH 44114	440-526-3030 ext. 7964	Thomas.Halfhill@med.va.gov
VISN 11						
Al Vair	Health System Specialist	VA Medical Center (116MH)	2215 Fuller Rd.	Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2303	734-222-4324	Al.Vair@med.va.gov
VISN 12						
Mary Ann Romeo	Social Work Executive	VA Medical Center-578	P.O. Box 5000	Hines, IL 60141-5122	708-202-2055	Mary.Ann.Romeo@med.va.gov
VISN 15						
Frank Piper	Chief, Domiciliary	VA Medical Center	4101 S. 4th St.	Leavenworth, KS 66048	913-682-2000 ext.52296	Frank.Piper@med.va.gov
VISN 16						
Estella L. Morris	Mgr. Homeless Center	VA Medical Center	1101 W. 2nd Street	Little Rock, AR 72201	501-257-4401	Estella.Morris@med.va.gov

VISN 17

Greta Mankins	Director, CHC	VA Medical Center -549	4500 S. Lancaster Rd.	Dallas, TX 75214	214-857-0374	Greta.Mankins@med.va.gov
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VISN 18

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VISN 19

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VISN 20

Chris H. Oliver	HCHV Coordinator	VA Medical Center Walla Walla	77 Wainwright Dr.	Walla Walla, WA 99362	509-525-5200 ext.22690	Chris.Oliver@med.va.gov
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VISN 21

Roberta L. Rosenthal	Chief, Social Work Service	VA Medical Center-662	4150 Clement Street	San Francisco, CA 94121	415-551-7338-voice mail	Roberta.Rosenthal@med.va.gov
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VISN 22

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